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Moynihan Cites Command Failure Over CIA Manual

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Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) yesterday criticized President Reagan's decision to reprimand only low-level Central Intelligence Agency officials for a Nicaraguan rebel manual, saying its production represented "a failure of command."

"If anybody's to be reprimanded, it should not be in the field," Moynihan, vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, said in a telephone interview from Jerusalem.

"There's a failure of commmand here," Moynihan said.

Reagan approved two internal investigations of the manual on Saturday, concluding that the agency's preparation of the manual did not violate U.S. law or a ban on CIA involvement in political assassinations.

A CIA inspector general's report identified "instances of poor judgment and lapses in oversight at lower levels within the agency" that led to the manual's distribution before objectionable material concerning the use of violence could be excised.

The 90-page manual recommends the "selective use of violence" to "neutralize" officials of Nicaragua's leftist government.

The White House said disciplinary action against an unspecified number of CIA employes could include letters of reprimand and suspension of pay, but did not say whether any would be fired.